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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

IN RE: UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,
PASSENGER SEXUAL ASSAULT
LITIGATION

MDL No. 3084 CRB

Judge: Honorable Charles Breyer

This Document Relates to:

J.B. v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.

Case No.: 3:23-cv-05876-CRB

**DEFENDANTS AND THIRD-PARTY
PLAINTIFFS UBER TECHNOLOGIES,
INC. AND RASIER, LLC'S THIRD-
PARTY COMPLAINT**

DEFENDANTS' THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT

Defendants and Third-Party Plaintiffs Uber Technologies, Inc. and Rasier, LLC (collectively, “Defendants” and “Third-Party Plaintiffs”) by and through their attorneys, bring this Third-Party Complaint pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 14 and hereby allege the following against Keith Brien (“Third-Party Defendant”):

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. Defendant and Third-Party Plaintiff Uber Technologies, Inc. is a California corporation that is registered with and conducts business within the State of California.

2. Defendant and Third-Party Plaintiff Rasier, LLC is a limited liability company that is registered with and conducts business within the State of California.

3. Based on information and belief, Third-Party Defendant Keith Brien is an individual residing in Rockton, Illinois.

4. Third-Party Plaintiffs Uber Technologies, Inc. and Rasier, LLC are Defendants in the above-entitled action wherein J.B. (“Plaintiff”), seeks damages for injuries allegedly caused by Uber Technologies, Inc. and Rasier, LLC and others, by way of Plaintiff’s Complaint for Damages and Demand for Jury Trial, filed on November 14, 2023, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division, Case No. 3:23-cv-05876-CRB, and Plaintiff’s Short-Form Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial, filed on April 10, 2024, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division, Case No. 3:23-cv-05876, which incorporates by reference the allegations made in the Master Long-Form Complaint filed on February 15, 2024, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division, Case No. 3:23-md-03084-CRB (collectively, the “Complaint”). Third-Party Plaintiffs incorporate the Complaint herein for reference, and deny any fault or liability for causing Plaintiff’s alleged injuries or damages.

5. By way of the Complaint, Plaintiff seeks damages arising from an alleged sexual assault that purportedly occurred in Winnebago County, Illinois.

6. In the event that, as a result of the underlying action, it is determined that Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Third-Party Plaintiffs, and there have been acts or omissions for which Third-

1 Party Plaintiffs are responsible or liable, said acts or omissions were caused by the primary and active
2 tortious or otherwise actionable conduct of Third-Party Defendant.

3 **JURISDICTION**

4 7. This Court has jurisdiction of the underlying action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1)
5 because the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and because the
6 underlying action is between citizens of different states.

7 8. This Court has jurisdiction over this Third-Party Complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
8 1367(a) because the Third-Party Complaint shares a common nucleus of operative facts with the
9 underlying action so that the Third-Party Complaint is so related to the underlying action as to form
10 part of the same case or controversy.

11 **DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT**

12 9. Assignment in the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division, is
13 appropriate because the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation assigned the *In re: Uber*
14 *Technologies, Inc., Passenger Sexual Assault Litigation* to this Court for consolidated pretrial
15 proceedings pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1407 and the underlying action was directly filed in the
16 Northern District of California. *See* Case No. 3:23-md-03084-CRB, Dkt. 1 (“Transfer Order”), Dkt.
17 177 (“Stipulated Pretrial Order No. 6: Direct Filing”).

18 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

19 **(Express/Contractual Indemnity)**

20 10. Third-Party Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set
21 forth herein.

22 11. Third-Party Defendant entered into multiple written agreements with Third-Party
23 Plaintiffs. Those agreements outline the respective rights and responsibilities relating to Third-Party
24 Defendant’s use of the Uber App. Of particular relevance here, Third-Party Defendant agreed to
25 indemnify and defend Third-Party Plaintiffs, including with respect to claims such as those asserted by
26 Plaintiff in the underlying Complaint against Third-Party Plaintiffs. The circumstances that give rise
27 to Third-Party Defendant’s contractual duty to indemnify and defend are the subject of Plaintiff’s
28 Complaint against Third-Party Plaintiffs.

12. Third-Party Defendant entered into a Platform Access Agreement (“PAA”) with Rasier, LLC on January 15, 2022. This PAA governed Third-Party Defendant’s “access to [Third-Party Plaintiffs’] Platform . . . which facilitates [Third-Party Defendant’s] provision of rideshare or peer-to-peer transportation service . . . to account holders seeking to access certain types of P2P Service” (**Exhibit A – Platform Access Agreement, updated Jan. 1, 2022, p. 1**). It further granted Third-Party Defendant “a non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-sublicensable, non-assignable license, during the term of this Agreement, to use our Platform” that was “[s]ubject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.” (*Id.* ¶ 2.1). The PAA required Third-Party Defendant, among other things, to comply with “all laws . . . that apply to [his] provision of Rides.” (*Id.* ¶ 2.2).

13. In connection with the PAA, Third-Party Defendant also entered into an Indemnity Agreement with Rasier, LLC on January 8, 2020. The Indemnity Agreement provides:

To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, you will indemnify, defend (at our option) and hold us and our affiliates and each of our and their respective officers, directors, employees, agents, or shareholders harmless from and against all claims, liabilities, expenses (including reasonable attorney’s fees and related expenses), damages, penalties, fines, social security contributions and taxes (“*Losses*”) asserted by a third party and arising out of or related to your breach or alleged breach of the Agreement or this Indemnity Agreement, your provision of Rides, your access to our Platform or your interaction with any third party.

(**Exhibit B—Indemnity Agreement, Updated Jan. 6, 2020, ¶ 1.1**).

14. Plaintiff’s Complaint alleges, among other things, conduct entitling Plaintiff to compensatory damages against Third-Party Plaintiffs. Specifically, Plaintiff’s Complaint alleges that on or about March 26, 2022, while Third-Party Defendant was providing her a ride using the Uber App, Third-Party Defendant made “inappropriate sexual conversation with Plaintiff. . . . Once [Third-Party Defendant] reached a stop sign and the vehicle was stopped, [Third-Party Defendant] reached into the back seat and began fondling Plaintiff’s legs and vaginal area. . . . Plaintiff asked [Third-Party Defendant] to stop sexually assaulting her and to take her home.” (**Pl.’s Compl. For Damages and Demand for Jury Trial, filed on November 14, 2023, United States District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division, Case No. 3:23-cv-05876-CRB, ¶¶66-70**);

1 **Pl.’s Short-Form Compl., filed on April 10, 2024, United States District Court for the Northern**
2 **District of California, San Francisco Division, Case No. 3:23-cv-05876, ¶C.1 (“The Plaintiff was**
3 **sexually assaulted, harassed, battered, or otherwise attacked by [Third-Party Defendant] in**
4 **connection with a ride facilitated on the Uber platform.”).**

5 15. The damages alleged by Plaintiff arise out of or relate to Third-Party Defendant’s
6 alleged tortious or otherwise actionable conduct, which arises out of or relates to his breach of the PAA
7 and the Indemnity Agreement with Third-Party Plaintiffs, provision of rides, access to Third-Party
8 Plaintiffs’ platform, and interaction with a third party.

9 16. Third-Party Defendant’s alleged tortious or otherwise actionable conduct is therefore
10 covered by the agreements to indemnify Third-Party Plaintiffs and gives rise to Third-Party
11 Defendant’s contractual duty to indemnify and defend.

12 17. Third-Party Plaintiffs deny liability for the events and occurrences described in
13 Plaintiff’s Complaint.

14 18. Third-Party Defendant’s alleged tortious or otherwise actionable conduct was the direct
15 and proximate cause of the damages alleged by Plaintiff.

16 19. As a result, if Third-Party Plaintiffs are found in some manner liable to Plaintiff in this
17 action under any theory of recovery, Third-Party Plaintiffs allege that their liability would be based
18 solely upon a derivative form of liability not resulting from their conduct and, therefore, are entitled to
19 complete indemnity from Third-Party Defendant.

20 20. By reason of the foregoing, Third-Party Plaintiffs are entitled to be fully defended and
21 indemnified by Third-Party Defendant for any amounts which may in good faith be paid by way of
22 compromise, settlement, or judgment. Additionally, Third-Party Plaintiffs are entitled to all costs,
23 expenses, and attorneys’ fees that Third-Party Plaintiffs incurred in the defense of the underlying action
24 brought by Plaintiff and the prosecution of this Third-Party Complaint.

25 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

26 **(Implied Indemnity)**

27 21. Third-Party Plaintiffs incorporate herein each allegation set forth above. In the
28 alternative to Third-Party Plaintiffs’ First Cause of Action, if the Court were to find that Third-Party

1 Plaintiffs are not entitled to express contractual indemnity from Third-Party Defendant, Third-Party
2 Plaintiffs allege that they are entitled to implied indemnity from Third-Party Defendant.

3 22. Plaintiff's Complaint alleges, among other things, that Third-Party Plaintiffs are
4 vicariously liable for Third-Party Defendant's conduct.

5 23. Third-Party Plaintiffs deny any relationship giving rise to vicarious liability for Third-
6 Party Defendant's conduct.

7 24. If Third-Party Plaintiffs are held vicariously liable for Third-Party Defendant's conduct,
8 any such pretort relationship giving rise to vicarious liability also gives rise to implied indemnity under
9 Illinois law.

10 25. Third-Party Plaintiffs deny liability for the events and occurrences described in
11 Plaintiff's Complaint, and, if Plaintiff has been injured or damaged as alleged in the Complaint, any
12 such injuries or damages were directly and proximately caused and contributed to by the negligence
13 or other tortious conduct of Third-Party Defendant.

14 26. As a result, if Third-Party Plaintiffs are found in some manner liable to Plaintiff in
15 this action under any theory of recovery, Third-Party Plaintiffs allege that their liability would be
16 based solely upon a derivative form of liability not resulting from their conduct, and, therefore, are
17 entitled to complete indemnity from Third-Party Defendant.

18 27. Under the foregoing circumstances, Third-Party Plaintiffs are entitled to be fully
19 indemnified by Third-Party Defendant for any amounts which may in good faith be paid by way of
20 compromise, settlement, or judgment. Additionally, Third-Party Plaintiffs are entitled to all costs,
21 expenses, and attorneys' fees that Third-Party Plaintiffs incurred in the defense of the underlying action
22 brought by Plaintiff and the prosecution of this Third-Party Complaint.

23 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

24 **(Contribution under 740 ILCS 100/2)**

25 28. Third-Party Plaintiffs incorporate herein each allegation set forth above.

26 29. If Plaintiff has been injured or damaged as alleged in the Complaint, any such injuries
27 or damages were directly and proximately caused and contributed to by the negligence or other tortious
28 conduct of Third-Party Defendant, such that Third-Party Defendant is subject to liability in tort to

1 Plaintiff.

2 30. At the time of the incident alleged in the Complaint, there was in full force and effect in
3 the State of Illinois a statute entitled “Joint Tortfeasor Contribution Act.” 740 ILCS 100/0.01, *et. seq.*

4 31. The fault, acts, or omissions of Third-Party Plaintiffs, if any, must be compared with
5 the fault, acts, or omissions of Third-Party Defendant or any other persons or parties.

6 32. Moreover, any award of damages to Plaintiff pursuant to her claims in the Complaint
7 must be apportioned to, and be paid by, Third-Party Defendant according to the degree of Third-Party
8 Defendant’s fault, acts, or omissions.

9 33. Therefore, if Third-Party Plaintiffs are held liable to Plaintiff on any of the allegations
10 made in the Complaint, Third-Party Defendant is obligated to reimburse Third-Party Plaintiffs to the
11 extent of Third-Party Defendant’s pro rata share of common liability and will be liable to Third-Party
12 Plaintiffs for any liabilities so assessed by way of contribution. Accordingly, Third-Party Plaintiffs
13 assert herein their rights to such contribution pursuant to the Joint Tortfeasor Contribution
14 Act. Specifically, Third-Party Plaintiffs assert that Third-Party Defendant is obligated to provide an
15 equitable contribution to any judgment or settlement herein awarded in direct proportion to his pro rata
16 share of common liability.

17 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

18 **(Declaratory Relief)**

19 34. Third-Party Plaintiffs incorporate herein each allegation set forth above.

20 35. Without in any way acknowledging any liability to Plaintiff, Third-Party Plaintiffs
21 allege that, if Third-Party Plaintiffs are ultimately held liable in this action, such liability will be the
22 direct and proximate result of the negligent or otherwise actionable conduct of Third-Party
23 Defendant. As a result, Third-Party Plaintiffs allege that Third-Party Defendant is obligated to fully or
24 partially indemnify Third-Party Plaintiffs for the sums that they may be compelled to pay as a result of
25 any damages, judgments, or other awards against Third-Party Plaintiffs in this action, if any, and to pay
26 Third-Party Plaintiffs’ attorneys’ fees and costs incurred in defending against the claims of Plaintiff in
27 this action and prosecuting the claims asserted by way of the Third-Party Complaint.

28 36. Third-Party Plaintiffs desire a judicial determination of the respective rights and duties

1 of Third-Party Plaintiffs and Third-Party Defendant with respect to the damages claimed in Plaintiff's
 2 Complaint. In particular, Third-Party Plaintiffs desire a declaration of the respective liabilities of
 3 Third-Party Plaintiffs and Third-Party Defendant for such damages, if any, and a declaration of Third-
 4 Party Defendant's responsibilities to indemnify Third-Party Plaintiffs and to hold them harmless from
 5 any sums that they may be compelled to pay, and for the attorneys' fees and costs Third-Party Plaintiffs
 6 have already incurred and will incur in defending against Plaintiff's claims and prosecuting the claims
 7 asserted by way of the Third-Party Complaint.

8 37. Such a declaration is necessary and appropriate at this time to enable Third-Party
 9 Plaintiffs to ascertain their rights and duties with respect to the defense of this action and the payment
 10 of any damages, judgment, or other awards that may be recovered against them by
 11 Plaintiff. Furthermore, the claims of Plaintiff and the claims of Third-Party Plaintiffs arise out of the
 12 same transaction and occurrence, and a determination of both in one proceeding is necessary and
 13 appropriate to avoid the multiplicity of actions that would result if Third-Party Plaintiffs are required
 14 to defend against the claims of Plaintiff in the Complaint and then bring a subsequent action against
 15 Third-Party Defendant for indemnification and contribution of sums that Third-Party Plaintiffs may be
 16 compelled to pay as a result of any damages, judgments, or other awards recovered by Plaintiff against
 17 Third-Party Plaintiffs, if any.

18 **PRAYER**

19 Wherefore, Third-Party Plaintiffs respectfully pray for the following judgment:

20 1. For judgment against Third-Party Defendant on the First Cause of Action, awarding
 21 Third-Party Plaintiffs total contractual indemnity for any amounts which may in good faith be paid by
 22 Third-Party Plaintiffs to Plaintiff by way of compromise, settlement, or judgment;

23 2. For judgment against Third-Party Defendant on the Second Cause of Action, awarding
 24 Third-Party Plaintiffs complete indemnity for any sum Third-Party Plaintiffs must pay to Plaintiff;

25 3. For judgment against Third-Party Defendant on the Third Cause of Action, in the form
 26 of contribution based on Third-Party Defendant's pro rata share of liability of any sums adjudged
 27 against Third-Party Plaintiffs, if any, in favor of Plaintiff herein;

28 4. For a judicial determination on the Fourth Cause of Action of the responsibilities of

1 Third-Party Defendant to fully or partially indemnify and hold Third-Party Plaintiffs harmless from
2 any damages, judgment, or other awards that may be recovered against Third-Party Plaintiffs by
3 Plaintiff on the Complaint pursuant to principles of indemnity or contribution;

4 5. For any other equitable decree or order required to apportion liability and damages, and
5 ensure Third-Party Defendant reimburses Third-Party Plaintiffs for any payments they make to Plaintiff
6 in excess of Third-Party Plaintiffs' proportionate share of fault, if any;

7 6. That Third-Party Plaintiffs be awarded their attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this
8 action to the extent permitted by law; and

9 7. For any and such further relief as the Court may determine is just and proper.

10
11 DATED: November 5, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

12 **SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.**

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